POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

13TH JANUARY 1998

PRESENT:- Councillor John Shaw (Chairman);
Councillor Hull (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Bacon, Carter, Davis, Fribbins, Godwin, Harris, Hubbard, Mason, Munton, Rowan-Robinson, Mrs. Shaw, Slater, Sofat, Thomas, Wallis, Mrs. Wheller and Wyper.

1192 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th November 1997 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1193 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman, Councillor John Shaw, and Councillors Godwin and Sofat declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 1196 (Historic Dockyard, Chatham) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair for the consideration of this item.

Councillor Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 1194 (Minutes from Sub-Committees - Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee) insofar as it related to Minute 1042(B) (The Medway Council for Voluntary Service) as a Member of the Board of that Council and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Godwin declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 1194 (Minutes from Sub-Committees - Joint Staff Consultative Committee) and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Resolved:- **that the interests be recorded.**

ITEMS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

1194 MINUTES FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(A) Civic Account Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th November 1997, as set out at Minutes 972-974, and the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th December 1997, as set out at Minutes 1-4, were submitted. Minutes 973 and 3 had been dealt with by the Sub-Committee under its delegated powers.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted.**

(B) Composite Investment Account Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 1997 as set out at Minutes 1001-1003 were submitted.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted.**

(C) Rochester and Chatham Riverside Study Steering Group

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 1997 as set out at Minutes 1030-1034, and the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 1997, as set out at Minutes 1177-1180, were submitted. Minutes 1030-1034 and 1178-1180 were subject only to the Policy and Resources Committee's approval and are dealt with below at Minute 1200(A).

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted insofar as such approval is required, it being noted that Minutes 1030-1034 inclusive of the 20th November 1997 meeting and Minutes 1178-1180 of the 15th December 1997 meeting are dealt with below at Minute 1200(A).**

(D) Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th November 1997 as set out at Minutes 1041-1050 were submitted.

Minutes 1042-1046 inclusive were subject only to the Policy and Resources Committee's approval and are dealt with below at Minute 1200(B), Minutes 1047 and 1048 had been dealt with by the Sub-Committee under its delegated powers.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted insofar as such approval is required, it being noted that Minutes 1042-1046 inclusive are dealt with below at Minute 1200(B).**

(E) Land and Property Management Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th November 1997 as set out at Minutes 1051-1069 were submitted. Minutes 1055-1063 were subject only to the Policy and Resources Committee's approval and are dealt with below at Minute 1200(C), Minutes 1064-1067 inclusive had been dealt with by the Sub-Committee under its delegated powers.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted insofar as such approval is required, it being noted that Minutes 1055-1063 inclusive are dealt with below at Minute 1200(C).**

(F) Customer Care Working Party

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th November 1997 as set out at Minutes 1070-1072 were submitted.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted.**

(G) Community Development Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November 1997 as set out at Minutes 1-13 were submitted. Minutes 10 and 11 had been dealt with by the Sub-Committee under its delegated powers.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted insofar as such approval is required.**

(H) Performance Review Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 1997 as set out at Minutes 1093-1095 were submitted. The recommendations to Minute 1094 were subject only to the Policy and Resources Committee's approval and are dealt with below at Minute 1200(D).

Recommended:- **that subject to the deletion of Councillor Sofat's name from the list of Members present the Minutes be approved and adopted, it being noted that the recommendations to Minute 1094 are dealt with below at Minute 1200(D).**

(I) Channel Tunnel/M2 Widening Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 1997 as set out at Minutes 1127-1132 were submitted. Minutes 1131 and 1132 had been dealt with by the Sub-Committee under its delegated powers.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted insofar as such approval is required.**

(J) Art in the Environment Working Party

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 1997 as set out at Minutes 1154-1157 were submitted.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted.**

(K) Joint Staff Consultative Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th October 1997 as set out at Minutes 1-7, were submitted.

Recommended:- **that the Minutes be approved and adopted.**

1195 **NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY, CHATHAM**

The City Technical Manager referred to Minute 1752 of the 25th February 1997, whereby approval was given to the expenditure of up to £25,000 to commission specialist consultants to carry out the first stage of a feasibility study to assess the suitability of the site at 108-114 Chatham High Street for a new Central Library.

He reported that a brief for the consultancy work had been drawn up and after the usual invitation to tender, Roger Quinton Associates were appointed by the City Council to provide a report on a new Library and Information Centre for Chatham.

Their report assessed the range of existing Library facilities in Chatham and the trends in Library and Information Service provision and their implications for Library Design and related these to the site at 108-114 Chatham High Street.

The City Technical Manager submitted two extracts from the draft report where the Consultants identified the range of features and services which could be provided and the likely floor space requirements and the range of initial conclusions from the study relating these to the particular building and site opportunity at 108-114 Chatham High Street.

It was now for the Medway Towns Council to decide how best to carry forward and implement the proposal in the context of the overall Library Strategy for the Medway Towns, the City Council having started the process by identifying the Capital Programme provision.

Recommended:- **that the Consultants' report be received and referred to the appropriate Committee of Medway Towns Council to consider and decide the next steps.**

1196 **THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD, CHATHAM**

The City Technical Manager referred to Minute 1520 of the 21st January 1997 whereby approval in principle was given to the release of £5m. from Code 3857 and to Minute 505 of the 15th July 1997 when the release of £1,857,000 from Code 3857 was approved as the City Council's gross contribution to the refurbishment of No. 7 Covered Slip.

The detailed refurbishment programme for No. 7 Covered Slip was now being prepared and the process of the City Council making grant contributions to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust for

that project, and in turn seeking reimbursement from the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) under the ERDF element of the KONVER II Programme had begun.

Since July 1997, the composition of the Trust itself had altered, both as a consequence of the tragic death of the Chairman, Sir William Staveley, and the appointment to the Board of four City Council Representatives, namely, Councillors John Shaw, J. Sofat, P. Godwin and the City Council's Chief Executive. The new Chairman of the Trust was Sir Kenneth MacDonald and the new Chief Executive was Mr. Joe Creighton, who was due to take up his post in the middle of January.

Since the announcement of the Heritage Lottery Award to the Historic Dockyard and the formal launch of the programme by the Secretary of State during a visit to Chatham in September 1997, the Trust's Board of Management had looked in detail at the future business strategy. This set out the range of major projects which would be funded by the capital monies provided by the Partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund and the City Council. This very much accorded with the development strategy prepared by KPMG in 1996 which the City Council had before it in reaching its own decision about financially supporting the Historic Dockyard's Capital Programme.

He submitted a table summarising the range of projects and the split of funding support between the main providers which was exactly as reported to the Committee at Minute 505 on the 15th July 1997, when the City Council's contribution of just over £1.8m. towards the refurbishment of No. 7 Covered Slipway was approved.

As indicated then, applications for European funding had been made towards the City Council's contribution to two of these projects. These were project 2 (Adaptation Projects) for which a KONVER grant of £110,654 had been requested and project 7, the Restoration of Former HMS Gannet, for which £235,000 grant aid had been sought. The current position was that the bid for project 2 was unsuccessful in the last round of KONVER funding, although it was agreed that the Project could be reconsidered on the basis of a gap funding proposal. The application for KONVER funding of £235,000 towards the refurbishment of the Gannet had been approved in principle, subject to the availability of funding in future bidding rounds. In this connection, GOSE had just announced that the European Commission had agreed the KONVER II Programme should be expanded for a further two years, with the commensurate additional funding, which meant, therefore, that Project funding for HMS Gannet should be secured.

As with the consideration of the funding package for No. 7 Covered Slip the suggested approach was that the City Council approved the total sums for its contributions to each of the projects in the knowledge that if KONVER II funding was successful then this would eventually reduce the outturn, but from a cashflow point of view the total sum needed to be made available to cover expenditure.

Recommended:- **that the City Council**

(a) welcomes the finalisation of the Historic Dockyard Trust's Business Strategy to secure the implementation of the Development Programme for the Historic Dockyard;

(b) notes the position concerning grant aid towards projects from the KONVER II Programme;

(c) releases £2,851,000 from Code 3857 as the Council's gross contribution to Projects 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the Development Strategy for the Historic Dockyard;

(d) advises the Medway Towns Council of its decision.

1197 **CHARTER TRUSTEES**

The Chief Executive referred to an approach by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions regarding the City Council's views on the establishment of Charter Trustees and reported upon the process by which such Trustees might be established. Any monies expended by them would be chargeable on the area for which they acted.

Medway Towns Council had noted that the pursuit of Charter Trustees was strictly a matter for the two existing Councils of Rochester upon Medway and Gillingham but had expressed a view that no action should be taken to establish such Trustees. Subsequently, Gillingham Borough Council had

agreed in principle to the establishment of Charter Trustees but wished to see if there was an alternative method of financing other than a direct precept on the residents of Gillingham. It was understood that if no alternative method of financing could be found, the Borough Council would not pursue the establishment of Charter Trustees.

Recommended:- **that**

(a) it be noted that the Medway Towns Council will be submitting an application for Borough status and if successful, will be entitled to the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor;

(b) no action be taken to establish Charter Trustees.

1198 STROOD WATERFRONT

The Head of Legal Services referred to Minute 621 of the Land and Property Management Sub-Committee of the 2nd September 1997 and reported that since that meeting, further land referencing and negotiations with landowners and the Port of Sheerness had resulted in a more accurate plan being drawn up, taking into account the river conservancy line, access at the eastern end of the site and revised plans for the station access. The original plan referred to at Minute 621 (Plan No. 2) and the Revised Plan (Plan No. 2A) were submitted for comparison.

The Committee noted that, in view of the timescales, the Chairman of the Land and Property Management Sub-Committee had agreed to the substitution of the Plan being dealt with directly by this Committee.

Recommended:- **that the Plan referred to as Plan No. 2 in Minute 621 of the 2nd September 1997 be substituted by Plan No. 2A now submitted and in all other respects the resolution shall remain unchanged and is hereby confirmed.**

1199 TENDER FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MEDWAY HELPLINE EQUIPMENT

The Head of Central Services referred to Minute 104 of the meeting of the Land and Property Management Sub-Committee of the 13th May 1997 and submitted details of the four Tenders received for the replacement of Medway Helpline equipment. The lowest Tender received did not include all the costs and failed to meet the specification in five areas. The next lowest Tender received in the sum of £34,732.10 plus V.A.T. did meet the full technical specification. The Capital Budget allocation at Code 3873 was £30,000 but the balance could be funded from Code 3871 Replacement Lifelines. The maintenance costs would be met from the existing Revenue Maintenance Budget.

Recommended:- **that**

(a) the Contract for the replacement of Medway Helpline equipment be awarded to Tunstall Telecommunications Limited, at £34,732.10 plus V.A.T., being the lowest satisfactory offer received;

(b) the virement of £4,732 from Code 3871 Replacement Lifeline Units to Code 3873 Helpline Replacement Equipment be approved and the budget released.